

What is claimed:

1. 1. An obturator system for filling an endodontically prepared tooth root canal comprising:
 2. an elongated heat conductible shaft having proximal and distal end portions;
 3. filler material on said shaft distal end portion, said shaft with the filler material thereon
 4. being insertable into a tooth root canal; and
 5. a heat source associated with and serving to selectively heat said shaft.
1. 2. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said heater employs flowing electrical current through a portion of said shaft.
1. 3. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said heat source employs electric inductance heating of said shaft.
1. 4. An obturator system according to Claim 2 wherein said heat source includes:
 2. a first conductor attached at a first location to said shaft;
 3. a second conductor attached at a second spaced apart location to said shaft; and
 4. circuitry for applying voltage to said first and second conductors.

1. 5. An obturator system according to Claim 3 wherein said heat source includes:
 - 2 a coil of wire surrounding a portion of said shaft proximal portion; and
 - 3 circuitry for supplying alternating current to said coil of wire.

1. 6. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said heat source includes:
 - 2 a generator impinging electromagnetic wave energy onto said shaft.

1. 7. An obturator system according to Claim 1 including:
 - 2 a signal generating temperature sensor affixed to said shaft.

1. 8. An obturator system according to Claim 7 including:
 - 2 circuitry attached to said temperature sensor employed to control said heat source.

1. 9. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said shaft is of metal.

1. 10. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said shaft is of plastic having electrically conductive material admixed therein.

1. 11. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said shaft has an inner electrically conductive portion and an outer electrically conductive portion separated for a portion of the shaft length by a layer of insulation said shaft being heatable by flowing current through said inner and outer electrically conductive portions.

- 1 12. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said heat source employs sonic energy.
- 1 13. An obturator system according to Claim 1 wherein said heat source employs piezoelectric
2 energy.
- 1 14. A method of filing an endodontically prepared root canal comprising:
 - 2 applying filler material to a distal portion of an elongated shaft formed of heat
 - 3 conducting material;
 - 4 inserting said proximal portion of said shaft having said filler material thereon into the
 - 5 root canal;
 - 6 heating said shaft to decrease the surface tension of said filler material; and
 - 7 removing said shaft leaving said filler material in the root canal.
- 1 15. A method of filing a root canal according to Claim 14 wherein said step of heating said shaft
2 includes heating the shaft with electrical energy.
- 1 16. A method of filing a root canal according to Claim 14 includes applying alternating
2 electrical current to a coil surrounding a portion of said shaft.
- 1 17. A method of filling a root canal according to Claim 14 wherein said step of heating said shaft
2 includes applying electromagnetic energy to said shaft.

- 1 18. A method of filling a root canal according to Claim 14 includes applying an electrical
- 2 potential to said shaft to cause current to flow through at least a portion of said shaft.
- 1 19. A method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal according to Claim 14 wherein said
- 2 shaft has an inner electrically conductive portion and an outer electrically conductive portion
- 3 separated for a portion of the shaft length by a layer of insulation and wherein the step of
- 4 heating said shaft includes flowing current through said inner and outer conductive portions.
- 1 20. A method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal according to Claim 12 wherein said
- 2 step of heating said shaft is accomplished by employing sonic energy.
- 1 21. A method of filling an endodontically prepared root canal according to Claim 13 wherein said
- 2 step of heating said shaft is accomplished by employing piezoelectric energy.